

CLAIMS

- Sub 21
1. A video signal processing system for producing an output signal suitable for coupling to a display device to produce a displayed image, the video processing system having a ratings control system which blocks viewing of programs which are broadcast with ratings or spending information which is outside a normal profile set by a supervisor, which permits the supervisor to temporarily modify the ratings profile, and which automatically restores the normal profile at the end of the period..
2. System according to claim 1 wherein the ratings control system permits the supervisor to (A) unblock one or more specific broadcast programs; (B) block or unblock one or more channels for one or more specific time periods; (C) specify a revised ratings profile for a specific period, or (D) specify a revised spending limit for a period.
3. System according to claim 1 further including means to display a status listing of programs or channels unblocked and the corresponding time periods.
4. System according to claim 1 wherein the video signal processing system for producing an output signal comprises a television receiver, cable box, or a video cassette recorder tuner.
5. System according to claim 1 which permits limiting the view time in the normal profile, and allows the supervisor to temporarily override the view time limit.
- Sub 22
6. Method for blocking viewing or recording of television programs which are broadcast with ratings information or spending information which is outside a range selected by a supervisor comprising (A) receiving one or more profiles comprising ratings limits, and/or spending, and/or view time limits for each profile from a supervisor, (B) receiving override instructions from a supervisor corresponding to one or more modified profiles which specify one or more permitted television programs, one or more permitted channels to be unblocked for one or more specific time periods, modified view time limits, or a revised ratings range for one or more specific time periods, (C) blocking or permitting viewing or recording of television programs according to the current normal profile but as modified by the temporary override instructions.

7. Ratings control apparatus comprising means to block or permit programs which are broadcast with ratings information or spending information according to a profile, means for a supervisor to enter a password and select a program, channel, or time period for which the normal ratings or spending information is temporarily
5 revised, and means to automatically restore the normal ratings control range at the expiration of the selected time period(s) or completion of the selected program(s).

8. Apparatus according to claim 7 further including means for the supervisor to enter a normal view time limit in a profile, and means for the supervisor to temporarily override the view time limit in the profile.

10 9. Apparatus comprising a processor which normally blocks viewing of television programs or recordings outside a normal viewer profile entered by a supervisor, which permits or denies viewing of programs according to temporary
15 override(s) instructions entered by the supervisor, and which returns to the normal viewer profile after expiration of a time period set by the supervisor, or by removal of the override(s) by the supervisor, or after completion of the programs or recordings permitted in the temporary override(s) instructions.